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May 28, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

To whom it concerns:

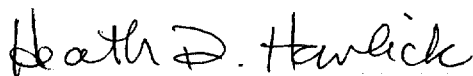
The current labeling for irradiated foods should not be revised, at least not in terms of informing consumers that the foods they buy have been treated with irradiation.

The FDA decided that irradiation could be classified as an additive, and so as an additive it should adhere to the labeling requirements for all other additives. Irradiated foods should have labeling which clearly indicates the phrases "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" and the radura symbol. Phrases such as "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" are misleading and should not be used.

At no time in the future should labeling requirements for irradiation expire. To allow irradiated foods to go unmarked would be to intentionally mislead or at least fail to inform consumers of the contents of their foods, and that is not the role and, I hope, not the aim of the FDA.

The revision which should be made to irradiation labeling is that it should be more prominent. Current law allows such labeling to be no bigger than the lettering used for listing ingredients. I propose that the size be at least doubled on packages so that they will be clearly marked and consumers will be easily informed. I also recommend that informational displays such as those used for packaged meats be set up for displayed whole foods like fruit, using the term "irradiation" and the radura.

Sincerely,

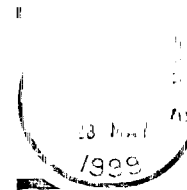


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